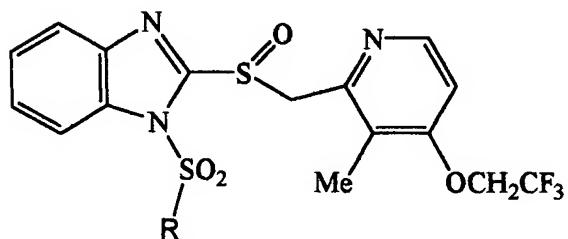
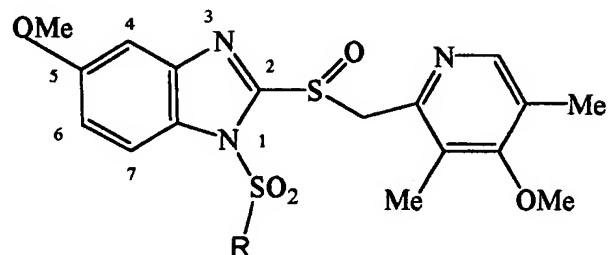


COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL PENDING CLAIMS

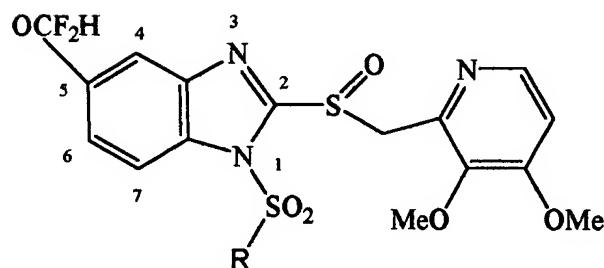
1. (currently amended) A compound of **Formula 1**, **Formula 2**, **Formula 3** or of **Formula 4**



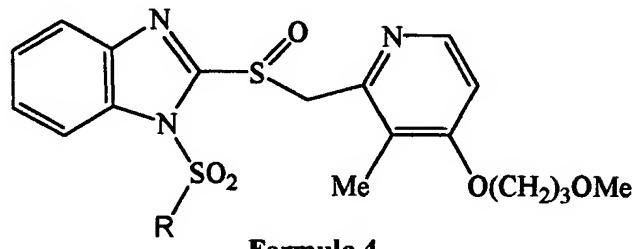
Formula 1



Formula 2

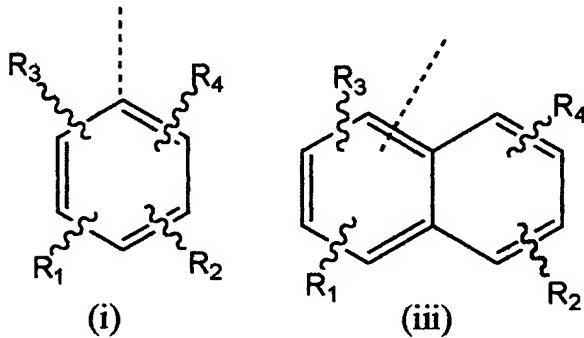


Formula 3



Formula 4

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2** and **3** where the OCH₃, and HF₂CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring, and wherein **R** represents the groups selected from **Formulas (i)** and **(iii)**; the dashed line represents the bond connecting the **R** group with the SO₂ group;



R₁ and **R**₂ independently are H, a straight chained or branch-chained di- or trivalent alkyl group of 1 to 12 carbons including 1 or two **R**₅ groups, or a straight chained or branch-chained saturated hydrocarbon skeleton having no more than 12 carbons including 1 or two **R**₅ groups and optionally further including one to three **X** groups where **X** is independently selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, -NR₆-, -NHCO-, -CONH-, -CONHCO-, -COO-, -OCO- and a divalent phenyl group which can optionally be substituted with one or two halogen atoms or with one or two **R**₃ groups; or the **R**₅ group is directly attached without an intervening **R**₁ or **R**₂ group to the aromatic or heteroaromatic ring or to the **Y** group of formulas (i) through (viii);

R₃ and **R₄** independently are H, alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

R_5 is independently H, COOH or a tetrazole moiety;

R_6 is H or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

with the provisos that

at least one or more of the R_1 and R_2 groups is not H, and

at least one or more R_5 is not H and no more than two R_5 groups are COOH or tetrazole whereby the compound ~~includes~~ at least has one but no more than two COOH or tetrazole groups;

~~when Y is N then neither of the R_1 and R_2 groups is H,~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

2. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 1**.

3. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 2**.

4. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 3**.

5. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 4**.

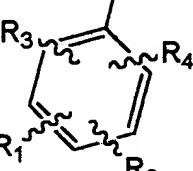
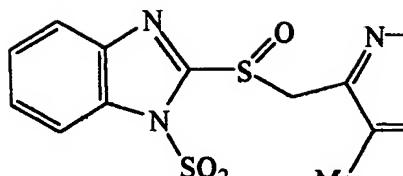
6. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where R_5 is independently selected from H and COOH, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

7. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where the formula ~~includes~~ has at least one or more **X group groups**.

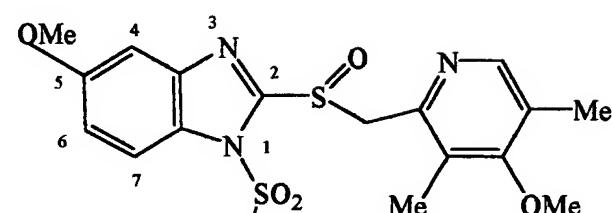
8. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where at least one or more **X** is O.

9. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where at least one or more **X** is CONH.

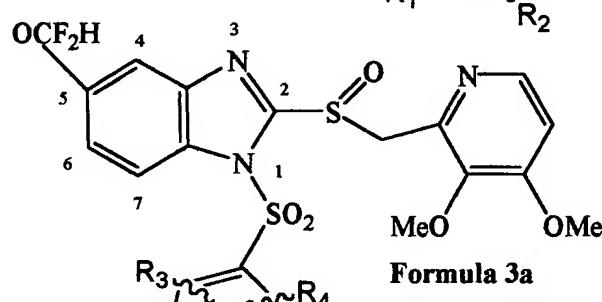
9. (erroneous second occurrence CANCELED)
10. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where R represents **formula (i)**.
11. (currently amended) A compound of **Formula 1a**, **Formula 2a**, **Formula 3a** or of **Formula 4a**



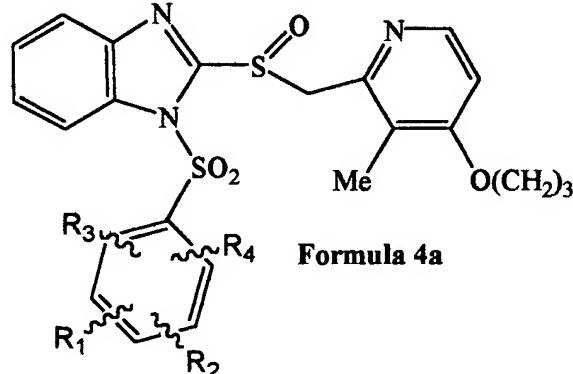
Formula 1a



Formula 2a



Formula 3a



Formula 4a

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2a** and **3a** where the OCH_3 , and HF_2CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring,

R_1 and R_2 independently are H, a straight chained or branch-chained di- or trivalent alkyl group of 1 to 12 carbons including 1 or two R_5 groups, or a

straight chained or branch-chained saturated hydrocarbon skeleton having no more than 12 carbons including 1 or two R_5 groups and optionally further including one to three X groups where X is independently selected from the group consisting of $-O-$, $-S-$, $-NR_6-$, $-NHCO-$, $-CONH-$, $-CONHCO-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$ and a divalent phenyl group which can optionally be substituted with one or two halogen atoms or with one or two R_3 groups; or the R_5 group is directly attached without an intervening R_1 or R_2 group to the aromatic or heteroaromatic ring or to the Y group of formulas (i) through (viii);

R_3 and R_4 independently are H, alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

R_5 is independently H or COOH;

R_6 is H or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

with the provisos that

~~at least one or more of the~~ R_1 and R_2 groups is not H, and

~~at least one or more~~ R_5 is not H and no more than two R_5 groups are COOH whereby the compound includes ~~at least~~ one but no more than two COOH groups;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

12. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 1a.**

13. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 2a.**

14. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 13 where the CH_3O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

15. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has

Formula 3a.

16. (previously amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 15 where the HF₂CO group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

17. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has

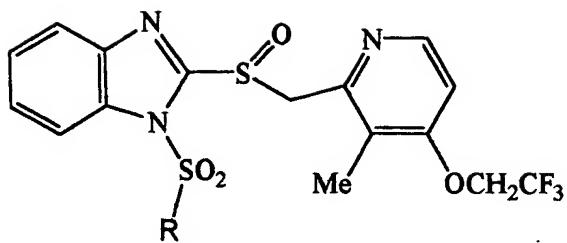
Formula 4a.

18. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that includes has only one COOH group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

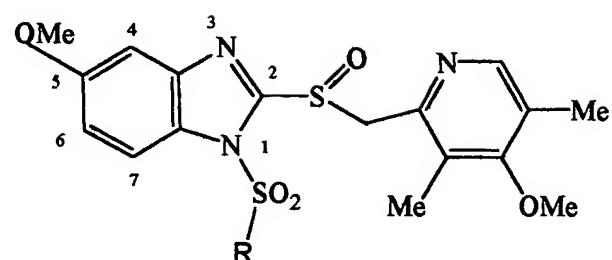
19. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that includes has only two COOH groups, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

20. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 where R₂, R₃ and R₄ are hydrogen and R₁ is OCH₂COOH attached in the 4 position on the phenyl ring relative relative to the sulfonyl group, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

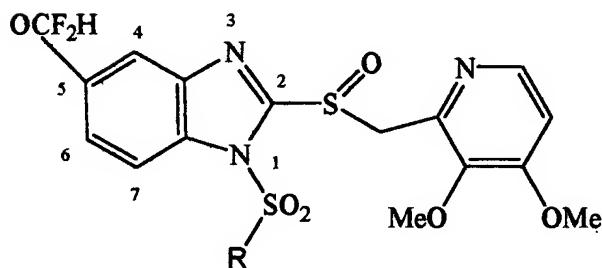
21. (original) A compound of **Formula 1**, **Formula 2**, **Formula 3** or of **Formula 4**



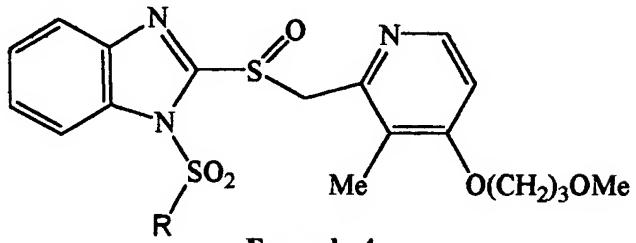
Formula 1



Formula 2

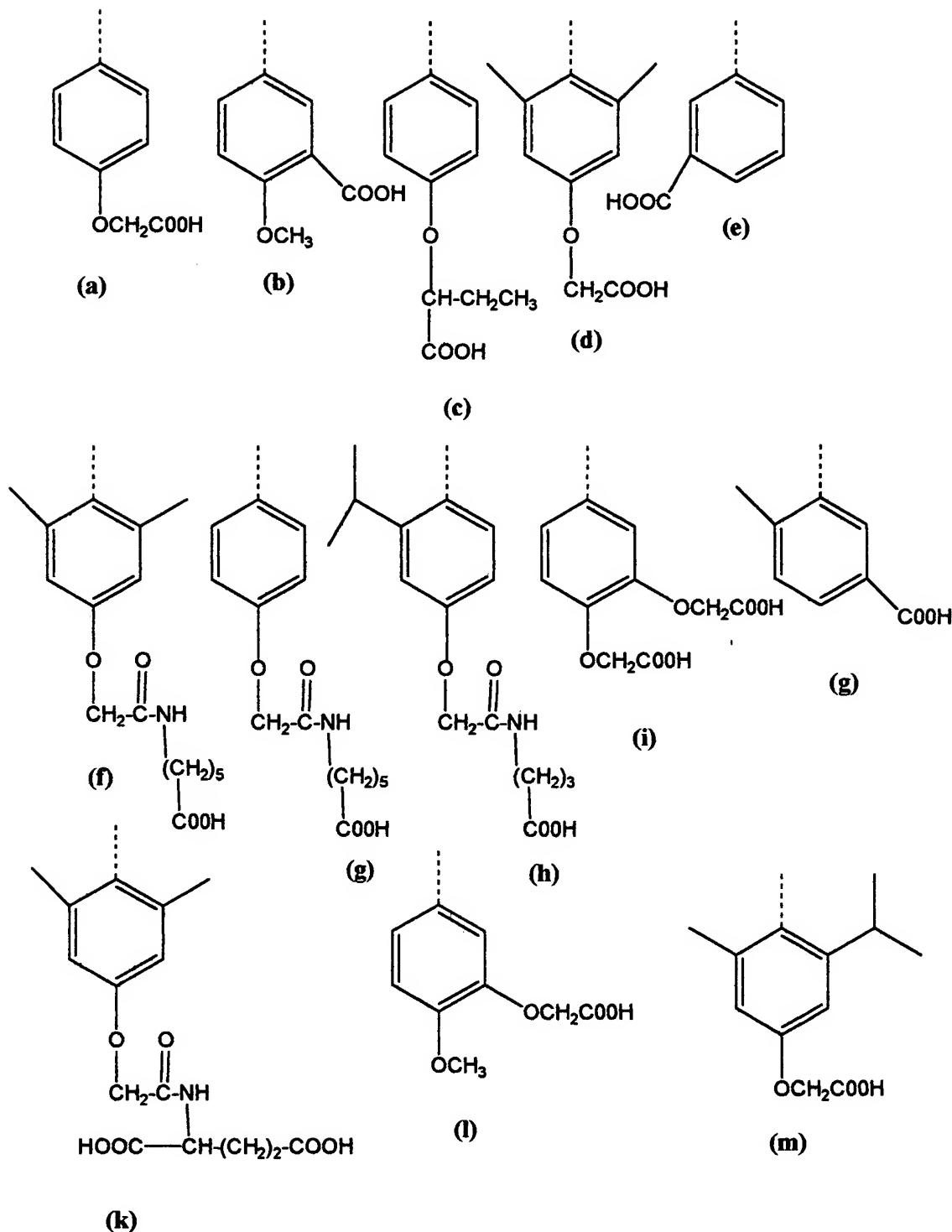


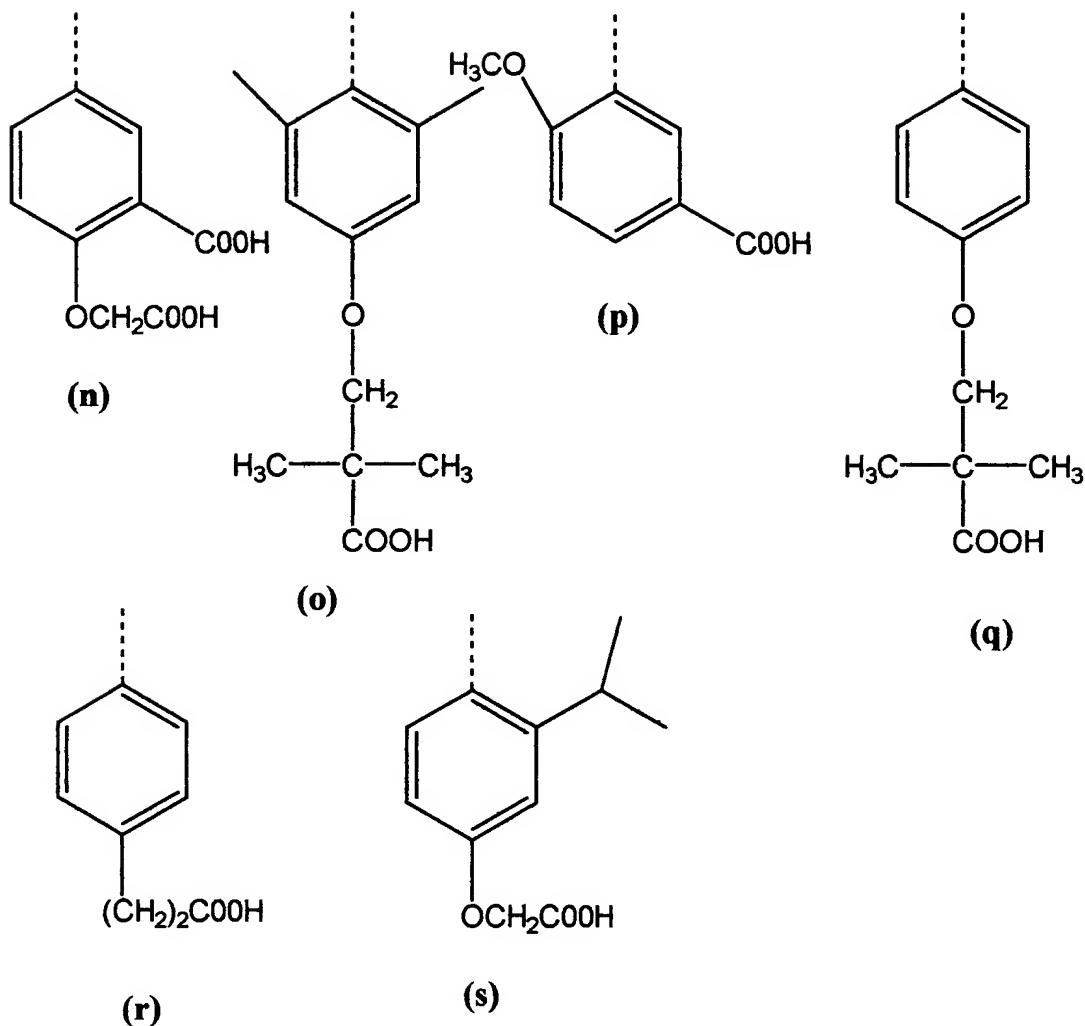
Formula 3



Formula 4

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2** and **3** where the OCH₃, and HF₂CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring, and
 wherein R represents the groups selected from **Formulas (a)** through **(s)**, the dashed line represents the bond connecting the R group with the SO₂ group,





or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

22. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of Formula 1.

23. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of Formula 2.

24. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 23 where the CH₃O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

25. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of Formula 3.

26. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 25 where the HF₂O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

27. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 21 of **Formula 4**.

28. (canceled)

29. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 1.

30. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 11.

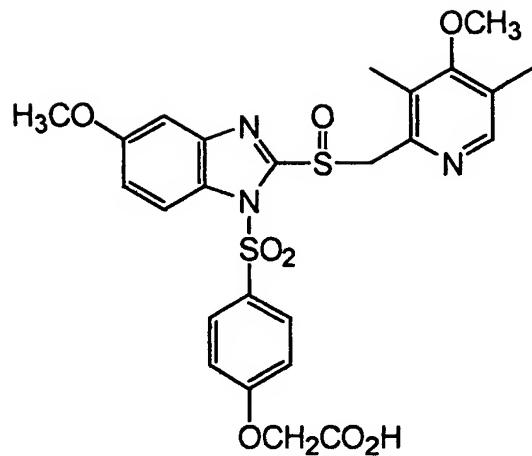
31. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 21.

32. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a compound in accordance with Claim 28.

33. (Canceled)

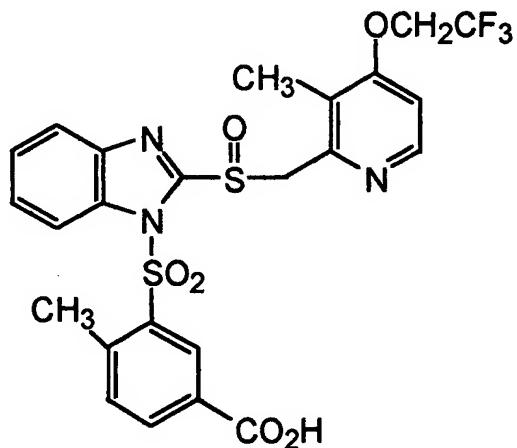
34. (new) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 having two R₅ groups which represent COOH, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

35. (new) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

36. (new) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.